

A young girl with dark hair in two braids is looking towards a whiteboard. In the background, a teacher's back is visible as they look at the whiteboard. The whiteboard has some handwritten notes, including "Civics" and "Cilia".

# **31n School-Based Mental Health Services**

2021-2022 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The overall intent of 31n is to increase the provision of mental health and support services in schools for general education students throughout Michigan. Since 2018-19, the Michigan Legislature has allocated funds to intermediate districts and the network of child and adolescent health centers to add licensed behavioral health providers in schools.

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## 2022 Funding Allocations

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### **31n(5): \$14.3 million for Child and Adolescent Health Center (CAHC) services**

Distributed to the existing network of CAHCs to place a licensed master's level behavioral health provider in schools that do not currently have services available to general education students.

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### **31n(6): \$37.8 million for Intermediate School District (ISD) services**

\$575,000 plus an equal per-pupil amount distributed to all 56 ISDs for the provision of mental health and support services.

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### **31n(9): \$1 million for upgrading technology**

Distributed to MDHHS for the purpose of upgrading technology and systems infrastructure to support the programs funded under this section.

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### **31n(10): \$500,000 for administration**

Distributed equally to the 56 ISDs for the purpose of administering programs funded under 31n and to ensure the overall vision and intent of the legislation is carried out.





## 2019-2020

Impact of 31n(6) Funds

## 2020-2021

Impact of 31n(6) Funds

## 2021-2022

Impact of 31n(6) Funds

Local school districts served

**291**

**365**

**436**

School buildings served

**762**

**887**

**1,109**

Students attended a school with at least one 31n(6) funded provider

**330,320**

**386,150**

**535,325**

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) licensed behavioral health providers hired directly by an Intermediate School District (ISD) or local district with 31n(6) funds

**89.78**

**154.4**

**257.74**

FTE licensed behavioral health providers hired through contract-based collaborative partnerships with community mental health programs to provide direct services to students

**50.2**

**59.14**

**87.55**

FTE licensed behavioral health providers hired through contract-based collaborative partnerships with private practice providers to provide direct services to students

**28.98**

**33.64**

**29.44**



## 2019-2020

Impact of 31n(6) Funds

## 2020-2021

Impact of 31n(6) Funds

## 2021-2022

Impact of 31n(6) Funds

FTE licensed master's level social workers (LMSW)

**68.84**

**71.5**

**129.1**

FTE licensed master's level professional counselors (LPC)

**37.5**

**37.6**

**58.9**

FTE limited licensed master's level social workers (LLMSW) under supervision of LMSW

**21.98**

**56.67**

**83.55**

FTE licensed master's level school social workers (LMSSW)

**19.17**

**55.12**

**68.84**

FTE limited licensed master's level professional counselors (LLPC) under the supervision of LPC

**9.35**

**13.35**

**12.41**

FTE fully licensed psychologists

**6.2**

**4.51**

**3.75**

FTE limited licensed master's level psychologists under supervision of a fully licensed psychologist

**3**

**4**

**11.1**



## 2019-2020

Impact of 31n(6) Funds

## 2020-2021

Impact of 31n(6) Funds

## 2021-2022

Impact of 31n(6) Funds

FTE MDE credentialed master's level  
school psychologists

**1.7**

**4.2**

**5.7**

FTE Board Certified Behavior Analyst  
(BCBA)

**1**

**3.39**

**5.6**

FTE Board Certified Assistant  
Behavior Analyst (BCaBA)

**0**

**1**

**0**

Full or Part-time Behavioral Health  
Program Coordinator funded by 31n(6)

**0**

**0**

**18**

Licensed Physician or Psychiatrist

**0**

**0**

**2.18**

Licensed master's level marriage  
and family therapist

**0**

**0**

**1**



## 2019-2020

Services Provided by  
31n(6) Funded Providers

## 2020-2021

Services Provided by  
31n(6) Funded Providers

## 2021-2022

Services Provided by  
31n(6) Funded Providers

Students received screenings  
or assessments

**12,030**

**46,203**

**62,454**

Unduplicated students received  
direct services from a 31n(6)  
funded provider

**8,885**

**10,017**

**22,265**

Students that had a  
Plan of Care developed by  
a 31n(6) funded provider

**2,954**

**3,421**

**8,504**

Referrals to external  
community partners

**1,273**

**1,797**

**3,255**



bhworks, the Student Mental Health Software System from mdlogix (Medical Decision Logic, Inc.), was made available to all 56 Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) in May 2021 through a statewide grant agreement from MDE. From October 2021 - September 2022, a rapid adoption of bhworks was underway, with 60% of ISDs using the system. The implementation continues to expand at a swift pace. This comprehensive technology platform allows schools to confidentially screen students, refer, monitor treatment, and streamline communication with families and school staff to improve student mental health outcomes.

The early benefits of bhworks include Michigan providers funded by 31n(6) being able to get students from referrals into services faster, providers assessing and treating students with a greater efficiency, and providers spending more time meeting the needs of students because there is less paperwork. Additionally, using one platform that has integrated with other Michigan systems, including MiDataHub, increases efficiency. This time-saving capability also helps address the state provider shortage. The student screenings with immediate assessments and referrals for service positively demonstrates how Michigan is methodically and promptly improving student behavioral and mental health in the state.

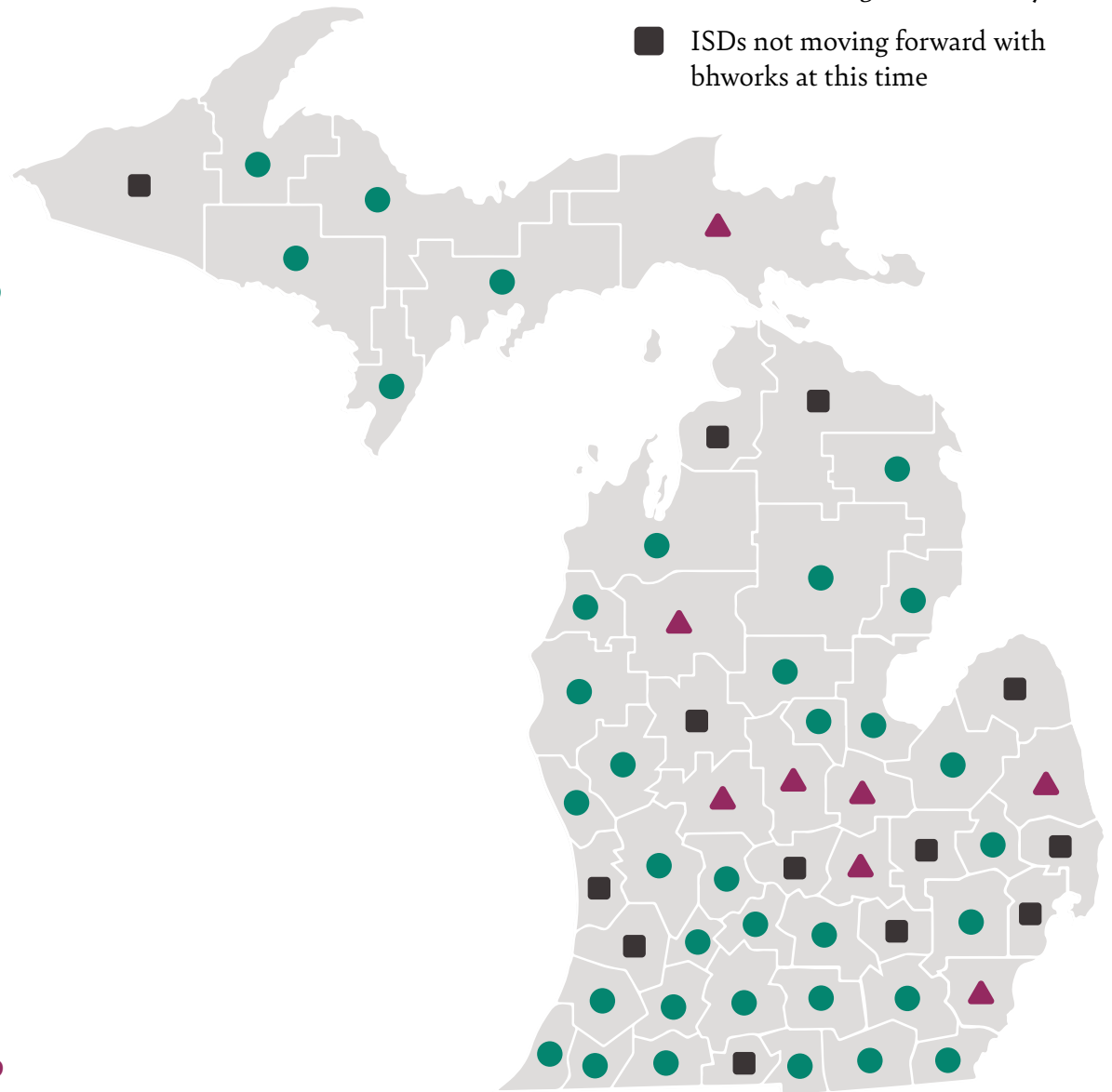


# ISDs Using bhworks as of Fall 2022

- Allegan Area ESA
- Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona ESD
- Barry ISD
- Bay-Arenac ISD
- Berrien RESA
- Branch ISD
- Calhoun ISD
- Charlevoix-Emmet ISD
- Cheboygan-Otsego-Presque Isle ESD
- Clare-Gladwin RESD
- Clinton County RESA
- COOR ISD
- Copper Country ISD
- Delta-Schoolcraft ISD
- Dickinson-Iron ISD
- ▲ Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD
- Eaton RESA
- Genesee ISD
- Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD
- ▲ Gratiot-Isabella RESD
- Heritage Southwest ISD
- Hillsdale County ISD
- Huron ISD
- Ingham ISD
- Ionia County ISD
- Iosco RESA
- Jackson County ISD
- Kalamazoo RESA

- Kent ISD
- Lapeer County ISD
- Lenawee ISD
- Livingston ESA
- Macomb ISD
- Manistee ISD
- Marquette-Alger RESA
- Mecosta-Osceola ISD
- Menominee County ISD
- Midland County ESA
- Monroe County ISD
- ▲ Montcalm Area ISD
- Muskegon Area ISD
- Newaygo County RESA
- Northwest Education Services (Traverse Bay)
- Oakland Schools
- Ottawa Area ISD
- ▲ Saginaw ISD
- ▲ Sanilac ISD
- ▲ Shiawassee RESD
- St. Clair County RESA
- St. Joseph County ISD
- Tuscola ISD
- Van Buren ISD
- Washtenaw ISD
- ▲ Wayne RESA
- West Shore ESD
- ▲ Wexford-Missaukee ISD

- ISDs live with bhworks
- ▲ ISDs expected to go live with bhworks during 22-23 school year
- ISDs not moving forward with bhworks at this time



## Child & Adolescent Health Center (CAHC) Impact

The E3 (Expanding, Enhancing Emotional Health) program continues to grow in counties where access to mental health care is limited. Post pandemic concerns show

a growing need for emotional support in child and adolescents with users increasing by roughly 1,200 and visits increasing by roughly 13,000 from last year.



### PROVIDER ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Regional Quarterly Networking Meetings
- Monthly Elementary Provider Networking Meetings

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Summer Virtual Training Series)

- Play Therapy training week summer 2022 (7 trainings offered with Play Therapy modality).



**104**

total Expanding, Enhancing Emotional Health program sites (E3)

**40**

counties served

**4,242**

unduplicated users receiving mental health care

**41,994**

total visits

**4,349**

users receiving a Behavioral Health Screen (Universal Screening) or Comprehensive Risk Assessment

**3,094**

users ages 10+ with Depression Screens



“We have been able to provide direct mental health services for students in schools that had no services or very limited services prior to 31n funding. Access to mental health support is more easily accessible, which is a great need in our rural area of the state, which has a much lower rate of providers in comparison with other locations in the state. Having access in the school has reduced the stigma of receiving mental health services and also allows students to remain in school rather than driving long distances and missing instructional time to access services.”

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**RICH MARSHALL**

Director of Instructional Services  
Cheboygan-Otsego-Presque Isle ESD





“We have been able to fund or partially fund several Mental Health Professional positions within Muskegon County that provide mental/behavioral health services to students in need of services. By providing another access point to services in areas where mental health resources are often hard to come by due to financial or transportation barriers, we are able to catch a pocket of students that may have otherwise not been connected to resources.”

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**MATTHEW JOHNSON**

MYAlliance Mental Health Systems Coordinator  
Muskegon Area ISD





“Our team of clinicians are able to provide direct mental health supports for a number of districts in Macomb County. Providing the direct services to students has not only met the individual student need, but has also raised awareness as to the necessary supports for students with mental health related needs. All of the clinicians that were hired with 31n funds have continued services with many students throughout the summer.”

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**STEVE BERG**

Director of Special Education  
Macomb ISD



“We serve 10 school districts in Marquette and Alger counties. The services eliminate barriers to mental health care for our students. With a mental health care provider shortage, our 31n providers are often the only mental health care professionals accessible to our students.”

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**JENNIFER KRZEWINA, PHD**

Director of Mental Health Services Coordinator  
Marquette-Alger RESA





“We have hired Mental Health Clinicians directly through our ISD and deployed them into our local districts. We provide the supervision and case consultation for the clinicians, as well as assistance with embedding them into their MTSS structures. We have also used these funds to support behavioral health assessment teams, which have been crucial to implementing this support into our buildings.”

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**HEIDI OLIVARES**

Behavior and Trauma Coordinator  
Van Buren ISD



“Our ISD has been able to deploy mental health providers to all of our districts this past year. These providers have been providing one-on-one and small group support to students in each of our districts. Our providers have been focused on helping students handle the mental health issues that are prohibiting them from participating in the school community. These include gaining coping skills and strategies, as well as the ability to recognize their needs and advocate for them. We have focused on building an awareness about mental health and breaking the stigma around mental health treatment. We have focused on collecting various types of data, including attendance, grades, and screener data.”

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**JILL BALL**

Instructional Services Coordinator  
Tuscola ISD





“BAISD has employed 7 master’s level mental health service providers working directly with students in 13 schools. BAISD has developed a 31n Network to support the creation of behavioral health assessment teams at the ISD and school building levels. BAISD has also developed a Whole Child Network comprised of Social Workers, Counselors, Student Service Workers, Behavior Specialists, and other school personnel supporting student behavior and social emotional well-being. This collaborative network provides training, resources and networking to improve our systems of support for students.”

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**STACEY MEININGER**

Whole Child Systems Supervisor  
Bay-Arenac ISD



“This money has been crucial to offering in-school supports for students that are located in rural and isolated areas that have a lack of community and mental health resources and supports. We have been able to hire professionals to support children directly in the school setting. Our capacity has grown and we are able to intervene earlier and have adequate resources for crisis response. 31n funds have made a major difference in the lives of our students.”

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**MEGAN HAGEN**

Director of General Education  
Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD





“We have therapists full-time in 14 buildings in the region, and have hired 4 more therapists to support 6 more buildings in 2022-23. The therapists are seeing an increasing number of students, have been active members of the behavioral health assessment teams in their buildings, have participated in TRAILS Coaching training, and have provided teacher professional development on working with students with mental health issues due to trauma, adverse childhood experiences, etc. In addition, we facilitated a regional retreat in June with every superintendent and building administrator in the region focusing on creating a schoolwide system for positive behavior interventions and support (PBIS).”

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**KATHY PEASLEY**

Associate Superintendent for Instruction  
Gratiot-Isabella RESD



## 31n Advisory Council

Communities In Schools of Michigan  
Community Mental Health Association of Michigan  
Delta-Schoolcraft ISD  
HealthWest  
Jackson County ISD  
Livingston ESA  
Manistee ISD  
Michigan Association of Health Plans  
Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators  
Michigan Association of School Boards  
Michigan Association of School Nurses  
Michigan Association of School Psychologists  
Michigan Association of School Social Workers

Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals  
Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators  
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health  
Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education  
Michigan Department of Education  
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services  
Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association  
Michigan Federation for Children and Families  
Michigan Health Endowment Fund  
Michigan School Business Officials  
Michigan School Counselor Association

Michigan State Police Office of School Safety  
MSU Extension Children and Youth Institute  
Munson Healthcare Cadillac  
Muskegon Area ISD  
Northwest Education Services  
Oakland Schools  
Oakridge Public Schools  
Parent Action for Healthy Kids  
School Community Health Alliance of Michigan  
St. Joseph County ISD  
Wexford-Missaukee ISD



## The 31n Advisory Council went through a visioning activity and came up with the following collective agreements to guide their collaboration:

**Why?** Statistics show that more Michigan children and adolescents are increasingly coping with mental health issues and trauma. The purpose of the 31n Advisory Council is to provide clarity and direction on best practices for schools to follow an integrated and comprehensive approach when using 31n funds to provide mental health services to students not already receiving those services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP).



**Who?** The 31n Advisory Council is a group of stakeholders and professionals with diverse backgrounds and expertise who are committed to improving the social and emotional wellbeing of Michigan students through advocacy and collaboratively representing the needs of the whole child.

**How?** The 31n Advisory Council meets at least twice a year, and subcommittees and technical assistance workgroups meet more frequently as needed and share challenges, intended outcomes, and results with the Advisory Council. Input from stakeholders across the state is sought after, valued, and considered before the Advisory Council makes any decisions or recommendations.

**What?** Success will be defined by a sustainably funded, comprehensive, and integrated multi-system approach that provides all Michigan students equitable access to destigmatized mental health services that improve long-term mental health outcomes.





## Responses to ISD concerns

Each year, ISDs are asked to provide proposals to increase 31n efficacy and usefulness, increase performance, and expand coverage. Feedback from each ISD is collectively analyzed by MDE, MDHHS, and the 31n Advisory Council. This is a summary of what ISDs requested and the collaborative response from MDE, MDHHS, and the 31n Advisory Council.

### ISD Feedback

Allow 31n providers to deliver whole group lessons on Tier 1 social emotional learning (SEL) and universal behavioral health prevention services because some local districts do not have the capacity for staff to fully implement these programs.

### MDE/MDHHS/31n Advisory Council resolution

- 31n(6) funded providers are permitted to expand their services to include Tier-1 universal supports in order for more students to have access to behavioral health services.

## ISD Feedback

In order to assure an appropriate level of care and outcomes of the mental health services, it is important to have the ability to hire a Behavioral Health Coordinator or Director of the service providers.

We are struggling to fill positions with licensed master's level behavioral health providers, can we hire a bachelor's level provider or a school nurse with 31n(6) funds?

Our providers are spending too much time doing paperwork and tracking down consents, we want them to have more time working directly with students.

## MDE/MDHHS/31n Advisory Council resolution

- Upon approval by MDE/MDHHS, a maximum of 20% of an ISD's 31n(6) allocation may be used for hiring bachelor's level behavioral health professionals pursuing additional credentials, hiring a behavioral health program coordinator/director, hiring school nurses, or costs associated with attracting highly qualified candidates.
- MDE and MDHHS employees are leading and participating in several workgroups to increase the number of behavioral health professionals and develop a talent pipeline.

- 31n(9) funds have made bhworks, a behavioral health software program from mdlogix, available to 31n-funded behavioral health providers. The platform provides referral, consent, screening, identifying, monitoring treatment, billing integration, care coordination, and more. bhworks has helped streamline the process for providers delivering comprehensive behavioral health services with standard operating procedures and efficient best practices.

## ISD Feedback

Provide consistent communication, collaboration opportunities, and training.

## MDE/MDHHS/31n Advisory Council resolution

- Newsletter distributed 3x/year in fall, winter, and spring
- Bi-monthly training and collaboration opportunities for direct services providers
- Bi-monthly training and collaboration opportunities for behavioral health program coordinators/directors
- MDE and MDHHS have state-level behavioral health consultants assigned to each ISD to provide consultation, technical assistance, and conduct annual reviews of behavioral health programs
- Shared Google drive with vetted resources and support documents
- Email list to distribute vetted and timely behavioral health resources and information

We are grateful for 31n(6) funds that provide support and resources for students and their families and staff members, but we're concerned the funding will be eliminated.

- 31n(6) allocations have been renewed each year by the legislature and the funding has significantly increased.



## ISD Feedback

One of the major barriers in education seems to be the difficulty in coordinating care between our schools, healthcare organizations, community mental health systems, courts, and MDHHS. By linking programs and supports that foster a comprehensive school mental health system, local districts would have the information in a timely fashion and the school would be able to more easily share information with providers.

We would be supportive of one state-level system, ideally connected to the Michigan Data Hub (MiDataHub), that included referral forms, consent forms, assessment forms, treatment plan/plan of care forms, and discharge summary forms.

## MDE/MDHHS/31n Advisory Council resolution

- MDE and MDHHS are working on a project with bhworks and the Michigan Health Information Network (MiHIN) to offer 31n(6) funded providers the opportunity to receive critical clinical information for the students with whom they have an active care relationship.

- 31n(9) funds have made bhworks, a behavioral health software program from mdlogix, available to 31n-funded behavioral health providers. The platform is integrated with MiDataHub and includes everything on this wish list.

# Addressing the Shortage of Behavioral Health Professionals (BHPs)

## Short-term (0-12 months)

Technical assistance workgroup (TAWG) led by MDE with partners from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Michigan Association of School Nurses (MASN), Michigan Association of School Social Workers (MASSW), Michigan Association of School Psychologists (MASP), Michigan School Counselor Association (MSCA), Western Michigan University (WMU), Grand Valley State University (GVSU), School-Community Health Alliance of MI (SCHA-MI), Community Mental Health Association (CMHA) of MI, plus representatives from LEAs and ISDs, meets regularly to discuss ideas and strategies for recruiting and retaining highly qualified BHPs.

Flexibility with 31n(6) funds allows ISDs to hire bachelor's level BHPs and to pay for additional classes and training for them to earn the certification that allows them to bill Medicaid for eligible services.

A list of contacts from universities that offer Social Work, School Social Work, Counselor, and Psychologist degrees is maintained to share and promote vacancies.

MiKidsNow Loan Repayment Program helps employers recruit and retain BHPs by providing loan repayment to those entering into service obligations.

Waiver permitting a master's level social worker without school social work (SSW) certification to provide services to students with an IEP.

## Intermediate-term (12-24 months)

Flexibility with 31n(6) funds allows ISDs to pay stipends for BHP internships.

Flexibility with 31n(6) funds to pay for additional classes to add certifications (e.g., Bachelor of Social Work to Master of Social Work or School Counselor to Limited Licensed Professional Counselor).

## Long-term (2 years or more)

MDE, MDHHS, and Community Mental Health Association (CMHA) of Michigan are collaborating with the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) to go through the Talent Pipeline management (TPM) Process, a standard process to address talent challenges for any industry. The TPM process, developed by the US Chamber of Commerce System, is a collection of six strategies to build a skilled workforce and is led by employers.

MDE and MDHHS representation on MiKidsNow Workforce Development and Training workgroup.



## History

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Multiple stakeholders came together to create a model of care for the delivery of school health and mental health services that is high quality, responsive to local needs, and financially sustainable. This work came out of the growing evidence that Michigan schools are greatly under-resourced with both behavioral health and other health support services. There is agreement among educators and behavioral health experts that licensed mental health providers are pivotal in delivering behavioral health services that impact school safety, educational outcomes, and the long-term health of individual students. As school safety concerns grew and deepened over time, the conversation quickly focused on funding and the ability to employ additional behavioral health professionals in schools to ensure access for all students to mental health care services.



*This report was created by staff at the Michigan Departments of Education and Health and Human Services.*

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For more information on the execution of 31n, please contact Diane Golzynski at 517-241-5362 or [GolzynskiD@michigan.gov](mailto:GolzynskiD@michigan.gov)